

Health Care Science and Services Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
APRIL 2022

What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



12,885 Employers



318,421 Workers



\$58,788 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Health Care?

Health Care Science & Services is the largest employing industry in Missouri, making up 14 percent of total private sector employment. The Health Care Science & Services industry has over 12,000 employers that provide jobs to over 318,000 workers across the state.

Missouri's Health Care industry has particularly high employment concentrations in General Medical and Surgical Hospitals, as well as Nursing and Residential Care Facilities. Wages in this industry averaged \$58,788 in 2020, higher than the state average of \$54,801 for all industries. An aging patient population and retiring health care workers contribute to the growing and projected need.

The Health Care industry provides a variety of work opportunities for every interest. From jobs that directly care for patients to careers that keep the whole system going, important jobs are waiting to be filled in Patient Care, Diagnostic/Therapeutic, and Business Operations.

Know the Basics

Health Care careers often involve interactions with patients and other team members, so active listening and communication skills are important. Health Care includes many essential occupations that need to be staffed around the clock, so dependability and reliability are a must. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability are important in all industries and occupations.

Skills needed for Success:

The Health Care Science and Services industry has a set of industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. With the need for privacy and confidentiality in these industries, workers need to have knowledge of health industry ethics, laws and regulations, in addition to being able to keep accurate and confidential documentation. Patient interaction, infection control, understanding of drugs and medications, as well as the knowledge of diagnostic procedures, scientific methods, and technology are some of the skills needed for success in this industry.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

BJC Healthcare

Mercy Health

Saint Luke's Health System

Hospital Corporation America

SSM Health Care



Patient Care

Diagnostic/ Therapeutic

Business Operations

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Home Health & Personal Care Aides

Entry: \$21,600; Average: \$25,840

Certificates: Home Health Aide, Certified Caregiver, First Aid CPR AED, Nursing Assistant

Psychiatric Aides

Entry: \$24,300; Average: \$29,610

Certificates: First Aid CPR AED

Receptionists & Information Clerks

Entry: \$24,150; Average: \$29,930

Customer Service Representatives

Entry: \$28,850; Average: \$36,580

Certificates: Certified Healthcare Access Associate (CHAA), First Aid CPR AED

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long- Term On-the-Job Training

Nursing Assistants

Entry: \$22,580; Average: \$27,720

Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurses

Entry: \$38,560; Average: \$44,490

Emergency Medical Technicians

Entry: \$28,140; Average: \$38,170

Certificates: Nursing Assistant, Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Dental Assistants

Entry: \$32,060; Average: \$38,610

Dental Hygienists

Entry: \$59,790; Average: \$69,730

Pharmacy Technicians

Entry: \$26,360; Average: \$33,670

Certificates: Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant American, First Aid CPR AED

Medical Records & Health Info. Technicians

Entry: \$35,140; Average: \$47,160

Computer User Support Specialists

Entry: \$38,080; Average: \$53,600

Medical Secretaries

Entry: \$29,040; Average: \$36,610

Certificates: Registered Health Information Technician, Certified Professional Coder, Certified A+ Technician, Network +, Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP)

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Registered Nurses

Entry: \$52,890 Average: \$65,900

Physical Therapists

Entry: \$70,760; Average: \$84,660

Family Medicine Physicians

Entry: \$67,490; Average: \$194,120

Degrees: Nursing Science, Physical Therapy, Medicine

Dentists

Entry: \$107,830; Average: \$157,030

Pharmacists

Entry: \$114,740; Average: \$127,430

Healthcare Social Workers

Entry: \$37,640; Average: \$49,050

Degrees: Social Work, Pharmacy, Mental Health, Dental Medicine

Software Developers

Entry: \$73,420; Average: \$96,530

Medical & Health Services Managers

Entry: \$77,840; Average: \$112,500

Accountants & Auditors

Entry: \$50,310; Average: \$71,130

Degrees: Computer Science, Information Technology, Accounting, Business Administration & Management

Sources:

EMSI Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool
Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2020 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2021 online job ads



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